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NUESTRA HISTORIA PROJECTSET FOR FALL PUBLICATION

DPS 86069

NEW YORK (DPS, April 3) -- A project originally conceived to search out successful local teaching ministries in Hispanic and bilingual parishes in the Episcopal Church, has evolved into much more. Beginning in 1978 five people were identified from an original list of over twenty-five to be visited and interviewed. The director of the project, Dabney Narvaez, traveled to their communities, parishes and homes, broke bread with them, talked, prayed and listened to their stories.

From these five Hispanic leaders in parishes of this country came remarkable stories of struggle, hope, suffering and witness to the presence and work of God in their lives, which are now being shaped into Nuestra Historia, one product of a task that produced much more, according to the Rev. Richard Bower, a member of the working committee.

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"We discovered patterns of unique leadership, of developing ministries, of common themes from the Hispanic experience both of this country and in the Episcopal Church. In addition to commonality, we discovered great diversity. In age, persons interviewed ranged from 31 to 61 years old. Three are women, two are men. They are drawn from the experience of Mexican-Americans, Cubans and Puerto Ricans, and their current homes and ministries are located all across the continent, Bower said.

"The word journey is often used in writings about faith development and the calling to minister. In the context of the Nuestra Historia project, there emerged a profound sense of journey in the life of each participant. Most of those interviewed were called upon in their late adolescence or early adulthood to leave the known worlds in which they had grown up and to move to worlds that were completely new to them. These experiences of risk and of maintaining faith through adversity seemed to result in a sense of strength and inner peace which each of the five participants brought to their Christian ministries."

These five stories are now being edited (from 25 hours of recorded tapes) and will be published in five separate pamphlets with study guides included. A sixth booklet by Narvaez will be added to the set, describing the project and its learnings and providing help with additional resources.

Nuestra Historia shares the growing Hispanic experience in the Episcopal Church with the wider membership. It clarifies and celebrates the contribution of Hispanics to this Church, as well as provides insights for the whole Church concerning implications from these stories for the life and mission of the local parish.

Nuestra Historia will be published and available by September 1986. It will be available in a collection of six pamphlets through the Hispanic Office at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY. 10017. Please direct inquiries to the Rev. Herbert Arrunategui. A general distribution by mail is also being planned.

This project has been developed by the Christian Education Committee of the National Commission on Hispanic Ministry of the Episcopal Church.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN

SCRUTINY CONTINUES

DPS 86070

NEW YORK (DPS, April 3) -- The Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa (CECSA) has announced that a number of banks under pressure from churches have developed new policies prohibiting any future loans to South Africa. The Committee noted that, according to World Council of Churches reports, policy changes by several banks are "morally and fiscally responsible in light of South Africa's extremely unstable economic and political situation, and the continuation of apartheid."

Press reports on Feb. 20 indicated that South Africa already had developed a consensus with the banks on its debt rescheduling. In fact, the rescheduling process is continuing and 12 banks, including Citibank, J.P. Morgan and Manufacturers Hanover Trust, have formed a task force to prepare a new debt plan. These latter were among the ten banks that received a Feb. 11 telegram from the Committee urging them to oppose any extension of the repayment schedule and roll-over of South Africa's loans; demand immediate payment of all short-term credits; and not to renew any loans nor make new loans to the public or private sector until apartheid was dismantled. Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning was among the signatories of that telegram. (Eds.: see DPS 86028)

Bankers Trust, the nation's eighth largest bank, has recently adopted a policy prohibiting loans to South Africa's private sector. In addition, Chase Manhattan's 1986 proxy statement includes a Church-sponsored shareholder resolution calling on the bank to adopt a policy of no further loans of any kind to South Africa.

In its response, the bank states, "We believe that the current political and economic situation in South Africa is so inherently unstable and unpredictable, that it presents unacceptable risks for any new lending or voluntary extension of current lending. Prudence and the

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interest of shareholders requires our bank to press vigorously for the shortest possible extension" for debt repayment.

The Committee's co-chairs, the Rev. Avery Post and the Rev. Lorenzo Shepard, maintain that these actions are important starting points for broad and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa -- one of the key objectives of the Committee's anti-apartheid efforts.

"It is our hope that the U.S. banks will also follow the significant and timely decision (March 8) of Barclay's Bank in Britain, one of the largest foreign investors in South Africa, to make no further loans to that country and not to be a party to any debt rescheduling until the government has demonstrated it can reduce its debt, and abolish the apartheid system," expressed the co-chairs on behalf of the Committee. Post is president of the United Church of Christ, and Shepard is the president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

According to Tim Smith, director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility -- a consultant group to the CECSA, these decisions "come at an extremely important time" and "exert a new wave of pressure on the Botha Government and other banks which are re-evaluating their policies." He added that pressure by Church shareholders, along with state and city pension funds, universities and others is growing rapidly and is having a significant impact on bank decisions. Shareholder resolutions to end all loans to South Africa will be presented at the April shareholders' meetings of Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover, Irving Trust, J.P. Morgan and Bank of America. Moreover, many of the churches are in the process of planning meetings between Church leaders and bank officials and evaluating the withdrawal of business from banks who continue lending to South Africa.

These churches' actions follow the mandate of the Harare Declaration, created by 60 Church leaders from throughout the world at a December 1985 "emergency meeting on South Africa" called by the World Council of Churches on behalf of the South African Council of Churches.

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On Feb. 10, 1986, the CECSA decided to take immediate steps to inform U.S. lending institutions and to lay the groundwork for related tasks, including public policy briefings in Washington, D.C. and the June observance of the World Day of Prayer and Fast to end unjust rule in South Africa.

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BISHOP DYER TO AID

LUTHERAN SYNOD

DPS 86071

NEW YORK (DPS, April 3) -- An Episcopal bishop has been named chaplain for the convention of the Lutheran Church in America's Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Bishop Mark Dyer of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem (Pa.) accepted an invitation from LCA Bishop Harold Weis to serve as chaplain for the 19th annual convention of the LCA synod, scheduled for June 6-8 in Allentown, Pa.

The invitation reflects a developing relationship between the LCA synod and the Episcopal diocese. The two regional church units are planning to make a formal "covenant" with each other, committing themselves to common study, prayer and work. The Rev. Eric Schafer, a spokesman for the LCA synod, said that it is particularly appropriate to have Dyer as chaplain because through his work on national Lutheran-Anglican dialogue, he gave encouragement to the northeastern Pennsylvania relationship.

The covenant, which was approved by a diocesan convention in December and will be voted on by the LCA synod in June, commits the two groups to cooperation in eight areas. It calls for mutual prayer and for the encouragement and support of common worship.

The covenant identifies possible Lutheran-Episcopalian ministries in the Reading-Bethlehem area, in which a pastor from one of the two denominations would serve members of both church bodies. Two possibilities presently under consideration are a ministry to Hispanics and a ministry to the terminally ill.

Also included in the covenant is an agreement for each of the churches to have voting members on appropriate committees of the other. The two bodies already send official observers to meetings such as synod and diocesan conventions. A joint ecumenical committee will be formed to review progress each year.

The Rev. Walter H. Wagner, chaplain of LCA-related Muhlenberg College in Allentown, will assist Dyer with convention worship.

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PHILIPPINES BISHOP

EYES NEW CHURCH ROLE

DPS 86072

MANILA, Philippines (DPS, April 3) -- The lightening-like changes and subsequent turmoil obviously mean real challenges to President Corazon Aquino, but they also present difficulties to the churches, according to the Rt. Rev. Manuel Lumpias, Presiding Bishop of the Philippine Episcopal Church.

While still calling the general state of the population of 54 million people "optimistic," Lumpias cautioned that the euphoria which greeted Mrs. Aquino's accession is proving ephemeral. "The Feb. 7 snap presidential election has, in many respects, compounded problems that it was expected to solve. It has generated political turmoil and national diversity rather than bringing about political stability and the unity of Filipino people," the Bishop said.

"After barely a week as president, Mrs. Aquino seemed to be heading for a variety of conflicts. Demonstrations and acts of protest are being held against her government amidst complaints of her failure to consider the will of the people in decision-making.

"The conflicts are being generated by the very people who supported her in her fight to topple the former regime. Her very own people are beginning to slide back to the identical destructive partisanship and the power plays characteristic of the preceding era... thus negating the very objective which Mrs. Aquino proclaimed in her campaign, that is the concept of unity.

"Already," Lumpias said, "the new president is in the midst of controversy concerning first, the appointment of her cabinet, several members of which are seemingly unacceptable to many of the people who brought her to power and, second, the dispossession of elective and appointive officials who are legally in office. Arbitrary dismissals have fanned civil unrest in many areas of the country. This action, according to a former minister, is tantamount to 'revolutionary terrorism.'"

He also noted that there has been insufficient security, with looting and vandalism, occurring particularly to property owned by people connected with former President Marcos.

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Lumpias went on: "There are serious threats to the country's recently won freedom. This danger represents a serious problem for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. It would have been difficult to have predicted, especially in the excitement which the election itself engendered, that a revolution which was accomplished with a minimum bloodshed would have been transformed into a chaotic situation.

"The immediate problem is how to establish and to safeguard the democracy, especially in light of the impending and perhaps immediate dangers that could erupt into armed conflict. The task of rebuilding the nation is an incredibly difficult one, and the people must continue to be vigilant and to have faith in God, for there are those who now sport the wool of lambs to hide their identities as the very 'wolves' who have been preying on the people for a long time.

"Our Church must endeavor to read correctly the signs of the times and to capitalize on the powerful force 'People Power' has as a potential for working towards reconciliation.

"In these rumor-filled days, there is still a degree of relative peace. Perhaps the people can, with the initiative of the Church, be sufficiently mollified. The Church must try to lead and, by reinvigorating its mission of charity, to put itself in a position to call for fairness, thus resulting in a state of reconciliation and love.

"The past must be forgotten and, in the words of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, 'there is no greater and effective means of fighting hatred than Christian love'.

"After all, what has been wrought in the country's history with the inception of a new government -- freedom and deliverance from bondage and oppression; redemption of freedom, victory over suffering and injustice, rebuilding a nation, peace and reconciliation -- all these were once wrought by Christ himself, who is the Greatest Lover of Souls.

To see the Filipino people united in peace, freedom and justice is a dream, and with God, through Prayer-Power, delivering the

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nation from blood and bondage, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, along with the other church bodies, must dream that dream and strive to make that dream a reality."

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HONDURAN YOUTH

PROGRAMS BOOMING

DPS 86073

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (DPS, April 3) -- In September 1985, the Diocese of Honduras had only two congregations with organized youth programs. Since then, the number of Episcopal youth groups here has grown to 14.

The diocese realized this growth through frequent mission visitations, a national-level Youth Encounter in February and a series of leadership training seminars. Two young people from each congregation were selected as leaders, based on demonstrated potential. The diocese has given workshops to provide these leaders with programming hints, guidelines for group structure and planning for outreach and fundraising.

Plans for the next three months include regional retreats in which several groups in each of six geographical areas will gather for weekend outings to encourage spiritual bonding and for outreach training.

The youth coordinators, John Rebstock and John Elledge, are also planning development of programs pertinent to the culture of the poor, rural youth in Honduras. Translations of U.S. material currently meet the needs of urban groups, but material useful to rural groups is still needed, the coordinators say.

The Episcopal Diocese of Honduras is encouraged by this response to its efforts in a region where the energy of youth often is being used for destructive purposes. Furthermore, youth involvement is crucial to Bishop Leo Frade's goals for an autonomous diocese, as today's young people will be the next leaders of the Honduran Church.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For the Sake of the Kingdom, the study by the Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission, reported in DPS # 86057 of March 20, is available in the United States from Forward Movement Publications, 412 Sycamore, Cincinnati, OH 45202 for \$2.25 per copy.

POSITIONS VACANT

The Episcopal Church Center is accepting applications for three professional staff positions: Treasurer, Executive Officer and Secretary, General Convention and Administrative Assistant to the Executive for World Mission.

TREASURER

This officer is the senior fiscal officer for the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, the General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society responsible for the development and management of the financial operating policies and practices of those bodies. The officer serves as executive to a 35-person finance department and is responsible for a \$27 million operating budget, a trust fund in excess of \$80 million and total assets in excess of \$110 million. Candidates should be Episcopalians active at the parish and diocesan levels with experience in non-profit financial administration at a planning and management level. Travel is required.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER & SECRETARY, GENERAL CONVENTION

This officer is appointed by the presiding officers of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies of the General Convention as secretary of the Convention, responsible also for the administration of the Convention office and the work of the Interim Bodies. The officer is ex officio secretary of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and corporate secretary of the Society and serves as registrar of ordinations and consecrations. The executive officer manages all

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aspects of Convention -- its budgets, arrangements, reports and the production of the Journal, Blue Book Reports, Constitution & Canons, the collation and distribution of resolutions and notification to the Church of Prayer Book, constitutional and canonical changes. Candidates must be ordained Episcopal Church clergy with good working knowledge of the Convention, Council and Interim Bodies and significant experience within the Convention process.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE FOR WORLD MISSION

This officer supervises the overall administrative function of the World Mission unit, including budget and financial record oversight, support staff management and scheduling and the unit telex. Some emergency confidential work for the executive is required. Candidates should have a working knowledge of the Church and its structures and prior administrative and supervisory work experience. A knowledge of the Church accounting and financial procedures is required, as are good communication skills and some knowledge of a wide variety of office equipment. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful.

To apply for any of these positions or for further information write to Barbara Quinn, Personnel Office, the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Applications must include resume and names and addresses of three professional references. The Episcopal Church Center is an equal opportunity employer operating under the affirmative action guidelines of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

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